



# **Brown Community Group**

## **Discussion Guide**

The Rejoicing of Jesus – Jan. 16, 2022  
Luke 10:21-24

### **Starter Thoughts and Context:**

Have you had times in your life where you had an experiential reaction of Joy that you know could have only come from God?

Do you remember almost becoming in a hyper state of spiritual ecstasy? A period of extreme happiness or very great Joy regardless of your current worldly situation?

Is it possible to experience this type of Joy apart from God?

Do we have to exhibit an external state of happiness to feel the “the true act of rejoicing or Joy”

Do we many times seek to find only “happiness” to fill the void that God has intended to be filled only with His Joy?

### **Scripture - Luke 10:21-24**

***21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.***

### **Background Context:**

Luke 10 begins with Jesus sending 72 disciples in pairs to the places he intended to visit (vs. 1). These disciples had three tasks to perform in the cities that welcomed them 1) eat, 2) heal the sick, and 3) proclaim the people that “the kingdom of God has come near to you (vs. 8-9). Conversely, they were to warn the cities that did not receive them that “it would be more tolerable in Sodom” than for their city (vs. 10-15). The seventy went out as instructed and upon their return they were joyful saying “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name” (vs. 17). Jesus tells them that rather than finding joy in the power over demons, they should rejoice in the reality of salvation (10:20).

The Greek word for rejoiced in verse 21 is *ēgalliásato* a form of *agalliáō* (from *agan*, "much, very" and *hállomai*, "jump, leap"). This is different from the form of rejoice used in vs. 20 (*chairó*, "be glad"). God's help is always the theme of *agalliáō* and denotes more than a feeling of joy, but an experiential reaction from the joy that comes from the Lord.

"Rejoicing in the Holy Spirit" is a characteristic Luke phrase which typically meant that a person was in a state of prophetic ecstasy or state of very great happiness. The "wise and understanding" was a reference to the scribes and men learned in the traditions of their religion. The "little children" would be a reference to the common and simple folks, those without spiritual arrogance or pretensions. The very people who were claiming to become masters of the knowledge of God were totally blind to what God was doing in their very presence. "Gracious will" which is also found in other verses, such as 2:14, translates as "the one whom he is pleased". God's good pleasure refers specifically to His will observed in the choice of those whom he has called to himself. God makes himself known through revelation. God will only reveals himself to those who are humbly aware of their needs! All others, He will remain unknown.

1. What was the reason for Jesus' rejoicing? Why would he rejoice about this?
2. How did Christ demonstrate humility through His rejoicing?
3. What was it about "the wise and understanding" that created the situation of God hiding things from them?
4. List out several key characteristics of the "little children"? Why do these spiritual characteristics allow them to see God's revelation?
5. Why does this behavior "Please God"?
6. If God makes himself known through revelation, how do we prepare ourselves for his full revelation?

***22 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.***

Knowledge means primarily the understanding that arises from our personal study, prayer and relationship with God rather than mastery of theological dogmas, words or attributes of God. All of your religious "works" based attempts to approach God will fail!

Jesus clearly states that he is the only person who stands in the kind of relationship to God that affords us the opportunity for salvation and ultimately "knowing our God". Jesus consciousness of his identity as Son arose out of God's revelation to him. Jesus and only Jesus is the designated person to be the "Revealer of the Father".

7. Explain the phrase "No one knows who the Son is except the Father"?
8. Explain the phrase "No one knows who the Father is except the Son"?

9. Explain how question 8's statement supports Jesus comments concerning "all things handed over to him"?
10. With these scriptures, can someone claim to love God, but not also love or follow Jesus?

**23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see! 24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it."**

These two verses are primarily referencing a specific time line of events that they are not around to physically live during. The prophets and kings belonged to a period of preparation. They had "prepared the way" for the coming of the messiah by lighting the lamp of messianic hope. The disciples had the distinct privilege of physically seeing, talking and walking with our Savior. The fulfillment of all scriptures was right before them!

11. Why do you think this was said privately to the disciples?
12. In Matthew 11:25-27, it does not use these verses, why do think Luke included the private declaration and Matthew did not?

#### **In Summary:**

13. What are some of the points with respect to Jesus's rejoicing in these verses?
14. How can we use these points to help us serve the body of Christ and love Jesus more?

#### **Responding in Prayer**

- Pray that regardless of our circumstances that we would find our joy in Christ.
- Pray that our desire to know Him more never ceases.
- Pray for our church and church leadership.